

Message Text

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SUBJ: REFORGER 75 AND THE US REPLY TO THE 1975 NATO DEFENSE
PLANNING REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE (DPQ-75)

REF: STATE 213364 DTG 082329Z SEP 75

DRAWING ON REFTTEL, WE SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO SYG, UK
AND FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON REFORGER 75. BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR JOSEPH:

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE UNITED STATES HAS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS
DEPLOYED FORCES TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY FOR REFORGER
EXERCISES, PURSUANT TO AN AGREED MINUTE OF APRIL 28, 1967, WHICH
STATED INTER ALIA OUR PLANS FOR SUCH PERIODIC DDEPLOYMENTS.

WE WILL CONTINUE THESE DEPLOYMENTS FOR REFORGER 75 THIS
AUTUMN, BUT THE PRECISE COMPOSITION OF THE DEPLOYING FORCES
HAS EVOLVED OVER THE PAST YEARS SUFFICIENTLY THAT MY AUTHORITIES
HAVE ASKED ME TO INFORM YOU OF THE REASONS FOR THE CHANGED
COMPOSITION AND TO ASSURE YOU THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR EARLIER
AGREEMENT HAS IN NO WAY WANED. RATHER, WE THINK THAT WE HAVE
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ENTERED A PERIOD IN WHICH EVEN GREATER MUTUAL BENEFIT TO THE
ALLIES AND DEMONSTRATION OF ALLIED SOLIDARITY CAN ACCRUE FROM
THESE DEPLOYMENTS.

IN 1967, WHEN THE AGREEMENT WAS MADE, SOME QUESTIONED WHETHER

THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE ABLE OR WILLING TO DEPLOY A FORCE OF ABOUT 10,000 SOLDIERS TO GERMANY ON A RECURRING BASIS. THOSE QUESTIONS HAVE, HAPPILY, LONG SINCE BEEN ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

AS REFORGER HAS BECOME ROUTINE OVER THE YEARS, THE UNITED STATES HAS MANAGED BOTH TO EXCEED INITIAL EXPECTATIONS AND TO REPLACE PART OF THE COMBAT FORCES WITHDRAWN EIGHT YEARS AGO. ONE REINFORCED BRIGADE OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION IS PERMANENTLY STATIONED IN GERMANY, RATHER THAN ROTATING EVERY SIX MONTHS AS ENVISAGED BY THE 1967 AGREEMENT. FURTHER, DURING THIS YEAR ONE COMBAT BRIGADE WAS ADDED TO OUR FORCES CONTINUOUSLY AVAILABLE IN GERMANY, AND AN ADDITIONAL BRIGADE WILL BE ADDED IN 1976.

CONCURRENT WITH THESE DEMONSTRATIONS OF CONTINUING UNITED STATES COMMITMENT, THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES TO EXPOSE DIFFERENT UNITS TO THE UNIQUE REFORGER TRAINING EXPERIENCE AND, MOST RECENTLY, TO USE THESE DEPLOYMENT EXERCISES AS A VEHICLE FOR JUDICIOUS EXPERIMENTATION WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF COMBAT UNITS.

THUS, WHILE THE UNITED STATES DEPLOYMENTS TO GERMANY FOR REFORGER 75 WILL BE OF THE SAME GENERAL MAGNITUDE AS IN THE PAST, SLIGHTLY IN EXCESS OF 10,000 MEN, ONE BRIGADE OF THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION WILL NOT DEPLOY, ALTHOUGH OTHER DIVISIONAL ELEMENTS WILL DO SO. THIS BRIGADE'S PLACE WILL BE TAKEN BY THE 3D ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT, A UNIT OF COMPARABLE SIZE BUT CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT CAPABILITIES.

THE CUSTOMARY EXERCISE IN SOUTHERN GERMANY WILL BE OF THE SAME SIZE AS IN RECENT YEARS, SINCE THE RECENTLY-ARRIVED BRIGADE OF THE 2ND ARMORED DIVISION ("BRIGADE 75") WILL PARTICIPATE. BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND AS A DECIDED BONUS WITHIN OUR CONSTANT LEVEL DEPLOYMENTS, WE WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO CONDUCT EXERCISES WITH ALLIES IN THE NORTHAG AREA, USING THE DEPLOYED 3D ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT.

MY AUTHORITIES HAVE COORDINATED THESE EXERCISES IN THE NORTH-CENTRAL AREA OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WITH THE APPROPRIATE ALLIED MILITARY AUTHORITIES. WE EXPECT THIS PARTICIPATION TO DEMONSTRATE VISIBLY OUR FLEXIBLE CAPABILITY TO REINFORCE IN THIS AREA, AND ALSO TO ILLUSTRATE OUR NEED WITHIN NATO FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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PROGRESS TOWARD GREATER COMMONALITY OF DOCTRINE AND INTEROPERABILITY OF EQUIPMENT.

IN SUM, MY AUTHORITIES CONSIDER THAT WE ARE NOW IN A POSITION TO REALIZE NEW BENEFITS TO THE ALLIANCE BY USING REFORGER DEPLOYMENTS FOR PURPOSES IN ADDITION TO THOSE FORESEEN SOME YEARS AGO, WHILE CONTINUING OUR ADHERENCE TO THE SPIRIT OF THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT.

I AM SENDING AN IDENTICAL LETTER TO AMBASSADOR KRAPF AND AMBASSADOR PECK. END TEXT.BRUCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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